

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph bridging of specification page 2 and 3 with the following replacement paragraph:

A SAN is a high-speed network that enables establishment of direct connections between a storage system and its storage devices. The SAN may thus be viewed as an extension to a storage bus and, as such, an operating system of the storage system enables access to stored information using block-based access protocols over the “extended bus”. In this context, the extended bus is typically embodied as Fibre Channel (FC) or Ethernet media adapted to operate with block access protocols, such as Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) protocol encapsulation over FC (FCP) or TCP/IP/Ethernet (iSCSI). A SAN arrangement or deployment allows decoupling of storage from the storage system, such as an application server, and some level of storage sharing at the application server level. There are, however, environments wherein a SAN is dedicated to a single server. When used within a SAN environment, the storage system may be embodied as a storage appliance that manages data access to a set of disks using one or more block-based protocols, such as SCSI embedded in Fibre Channel (FCP). One example of a SAN arrangement, including a storage appliance suitable for use in the SAN, is described in United States Patent ~~Application Serial No. 10/215,917~~No. 7,873,700, issued on Jan. 18, 2011, entitled MULTI-PROTOCOL STORAGE APPLIANCE THAT PROVIDES INTEGRATED SUPPORT FOR FILE AND BLOCK ACCESS PROTOCOLS, by Brian Pawlowski *et al.* In SCSI terminology, clients operating in a SAN environment are *initiators* that initiate requests and commands for data. A storage appliance is thus a *target* configured to respond to the requests issued by the initiators in accordance with a request/response protocol. A storage appliance may manage export control of virtual disks (vdisks) by logical names through the use of an igroup, which is a logical named entity that is assigned to one or more addresses, e.g., a World Wide Name (WWN) or

iSCSI ID, associated with one or more initiators. Thus the igroup comprises a plurality of initiators associated together for ease of management.

Please replace the paragraph bridging of specification page 3 and 4 with the following replacement paragraph:

It is advantageous for the services and data provided by a storage system, such as a storage appliance to be available for access to the greatest degree possible. Accordingly, some storage systems provide a plurality of storage appliances in a cluster, with a property that when a first storage appliance fails, the second storage appliance (“partner”) is available to take over and provide the services and the data otherwise provided by the first storage appliance. When the first storage appliance fails, the second partner storage appliance in the cluster assumes the tasks of processing and handling any data access requests normally processed by the first storage appliance. One such example of a storage appliance cluster configuration is described in United States Patent ~~Application Serial No. 10/421,297~~ No. 7,260,737, issued on Aug. 21, 2007, entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR TRANSPORT-LEVEL FAILOVER OF FCP DEVICES IN A CLUSTER, by Arthur F. Lent, *et al.* An administrator may desire to take a storage appliance offline for a variety of reasons including, for example, to upgrade hardware. In such situations, it may be advantageous to perform a user-initiated takeover operation, as opposed to a failover operation. After the takeover operation is complete, the storage appliance’s data is serviced by its partner until a giveback operation is performed.

Please replace the second full paragraph of specification page 4 with the following replacement paragraph:

Virtual ports are utilized, in certain storage appliance cluster implementations, to reduce the number of ports required to provide failover ports for clients of a failed storage appliance (port burn). In such implementations, a plurality of virtual ports is associated with a given physical port. One such clustering system using virtual ports is described in United States Patent ~~Application Serial No. 10/672,260~~No. 7,467,191, issued on Dec. 16, 2008, entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FAILOVER USING VIRTUAL PORTS IN CLUSTERED SYSTEMS, by Fang Wang, *et al.*, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph bridging specification page 4 and 5 with the following replacement paragraph:

Moreover, a storage appliance or system in a clustered environment may include an additional port (either physical or virtual) for use in receiving data access commands to be proxied to the partner storage system (a “proxy port” or “partner port”). In such environments, commands received by the proxy port are forwarded to the partner storage system for execution. An example of a proxying clustered storage system is described in United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/811,095 No. 7,340,639, issued on Mar. 4, 2008, entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROXYING DATA ACCESS COMMANDS IN A CLUSTER SYSTEM, by Herman Lee, *et al.*

Please replace the paragraph bridging specification page 9 and 10 with the following replacement paragraph:

Whereas clients of a NAS-based network environment have a storage viewpoint of files, the clients of a SAN-based network environment have a storage viewpoint of blocks or disks. To that end, the multi-protocol storage appliance 200 presents (exports) disks to SAN clients through the creation of luns or vdisk objects. A vdisk object (hereinafter “vdisk”) is a special file type that is implemented by the virtualization function and translated into an emulated disk as viewed by the SAN clients. Such vdisks objects are further described in United States Patent Application Serial ~~No. 10/216,453~~ No. 7,107,385, issued on Sep. 12, 2006, entitled STORAGE VIRTUALIZATION BY LAYERING VIRTUAL DISK OBJECTS ON A FILE SYSTEM, by Vijayan Rajan, *et al.* The storage appliance thereafter makes these emulated disks accessible to the SAN clients through controlled exports, as described further herein.
